

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0435

Contact details

Name:

David Wills

Do you wish to speak to your submission at a public hearing?

No

Topic 1: Are we focusing on the right things in the plan?

Do you agree that these focus areas capture Otago's public transport priorities?

No

Tell us more:

I'm not sure what 'competitive market' means when the bus service is a sole provider. And 'revenue sources' bothers me as well - particularly when competition doesn't exist.

I am a firm believer in good public transport. Elsewhere in the world this is free for locals and free for travelers, since it is built into their price of a bed for staying in the area.

I am forever told that NZ is "smaller", so we can't do that. However, Queenstown isn't a backwater of NZ, and by NZ standards it is right up there with being the biggest tourism attraction in the country. So, the "smaller" label doesn't fit, and shouldn't be used as a weapon against clear thinking.

Topic 2: Should we support community transport services in smaller towns and rural areas?

Our proposal: we are considering the establishment of a subsidised community transport programme providing support for transport services in Otago's smaller towns and rural areas.

What do you think about this proposal?

Do you agree with ORC having a role in supporting community transport services?

Yes

Are there other initiatives or programmes that you think Council should be considering?

No

Topic 3: Should we increase our passenger fares?

Our proposal: we are considering increasing the base fare for adult Bee Card passengers from \$2 to \$2.50. This would effectively increase bus fares for all passengers using Bee Cards by 25%.

What do you think about this proposal?

Should Council increase the adult Bee Card fare?

No

Tell us more:

No. I can't see why a balance can't be struck between free service for locals and a 'travel tax' for travelers, giving all unlimited travel across the district. I would like to see the numbers on how full busses might become when tourists realize they can travel unlimited (thus reducing the clogging of the roads and car parks with tourist cars), and how big the fleet might become - improving frequency of availability for locals.

Topic 4: Should we charge more for longer trips?

Our proposal: we are considering introducing a zone fare system to our bus networks in Dunedin and Queenstown. Under this system, passengers travelling further distances across multiple zones will pay a higher fare than those travelling short distances within one zone.

What do you think about this proposal?

Should Council charge more for longer trips?

No

Tell us more:

Not for locals. But yes for tourists.

Topic 5: Should we keep our free fares for children (5-12 years)?

Our proposal:

- A. Retain free fares (100% discount) for children (5-12 years), **AND**
- B. Standardise our concession discount for youth (13-18 years) to 40% across both the Dunedin and Queenstown networks. For example, if the adult fare is \$2, youth pay \$1.20, or if the adult fare is \$2.50, youth pay \$1.50.

What do you think about this proposal?

Should Council retain free fares (100% discount) for children (5-12 years)?

No

Tell us more:

No. The burden is on the parents who chose to have the child.

Should Council standardise our concession discount for youth (13-18 years) to 40% across both the Dunedin and Queenstown networks?

No

Tell us more:

No. The burden is on the parents who chose to have the child.

Any other comments?

Let us know if you have any other comments or ideas on the topics discussed in the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan.

I am a firm believer in good public transport. Elsewhere in the world this is free for locals and without additional cost for travelers, since it is built into their price of a bed for staying in the area.

I am forever told that NZ is "smaller", so we can't do that. However, Queenstown isn't a backwater of NZ, and by NZ standards it is right up there with being the biggest tourism attraction in the country. So, the "smaller" label doesn't fit, and shouldn't be used as a weapon against clear thinking.